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03/12/2013 Minutes

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 3/12/13, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Paul Kent, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener

Missing Members and Associates: Jean Clark, John Lentz, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau

Members of the Public Present: Leland Stein, Adam Auster

- Public Comments. Leland Stein, Co-owner of the Regent Theatre came for discussion of Medford Street bus stop.
- Administration.
 - Minutes of 2/13/13 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed. Egerton Road recommendation went to Selectmen for information only. Crosswalk will be put on DPW list for next season.
- Medford Street bus stop. Leland Stein reported on his request to move the bus stop forward on Medford Street so it is not blocking the theatre, and also to replace taxi stand with handicapped parking. The taxi stand is not very useful according to Mr. Stein. Occasionally someone asks for a taxi but you can't count on a taxi being there. In addition, there are 2 more taxi stands on Mass. Ave. at Medford Street. Scott said he didn't see any issue with removing the taxi stand, but thought it best to keep the bus stop close to Mass. Ave. for visibility and connectivity to other bus lines. Laura noted that none of the businesses want the bus stop in front of their business. Scott suggested we put this off another month to hear from Howard and Corey who are on the WG but not present.
- Safe Streets Warrant Article. Adam Auster was present for discussion of this warrant article that he submitted, advocating making pedestrian safety a priority in road design. Selectmen asked TAC to make a recommendation. The TAC fully supports the intent of improving pedestrian safety. However, the Committee is divided on the necessity of the bylaw. Pedestrian safety is already being considered.
- Town reports.
 - Wayne Chouinard submitted a written report. There will be a meeting of those involved with the Mill Street flashing beacon on March 18, prior to the ARB meeting. Laura asked them also to look at the sign at the egress driveway. Heights crosswalks—Gas Co. is removing crosswalk. Town will pay for new surface, durable therm embedded in asphalt. Elisabeth noted preference for the Town's standard crosswalk striping, as most visible and functional.
 - Laura reported that the 2 TAC matters will be on the ARB agenda Monday, March 18 at 7:30 pm—Minuteman bikeway flashing beacon, and Mass/Jason/Mill Street intersection. Also, Town has initiated contact with MBTA regarding restoring the #67 bus stop at the Symmes site.
- Mass. Ave. Corridor Project. Public Hearing in February went well, with about 75% of commenters supporting the project.

Motion to submit a commentary from TAC to Advocate, Patch, and Your Arlington to provide facts and generally support the project. Voted 5 in favor, 3 abstentions (Laura, Wayne, Paul). Rich will draft the letter.

- CLAMP. Public hearing not yet scheduled.
- Continuation of discussion on Safe Streets Warrant Article. Adam Auster presented some new language, limits reporting to 10 year period. Jeff agrees with intent but doesn't think it is needed. Motion to support bylaw, with changes to paragraph 1 and 4 (4 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstained). Elisabeth will draft report.
- Forest/Brand crosswalk. Wayne and Elisabeth reported on the recommendation of the Working Group. Installation of a crosswalk is not recommended due to poor visibility and narrowness of the street. Voted unanimously.
- Russell Place. This request came through Request/Answer. This does not appear to be a public roadway. Elisabeth is looking at it.
- Bike Pavement Marking Program. Wayne reported that Town will be repaving west of the High School and they will try applying the new policy there. They may incorporate both sharrows and bike lanes in various sections between Brattle and Jason, depending on road width.
- Arlington Center Traffic Study. Waiting on data analysis. Hope to get this before the Selectmen in April.
- "No Right on Red" sign on Forest at Summer. Request from resident to determine if there should be a sign restricting right turns on red here. Wayne reported that there is no indication on the plans that a sign was supposed to be installed.
- Mass/Jason/Mill. Jeff reported that this is one of the highest accident locations in town. Not proposing any change for Mass. Ave. traffic. Proposing Mill St. exclusive left turn lane and shared through/right lane, and Jason St. exclusive right turn lane and shared through/left lane. Reduce width of Jason St. traffic island to accommodate 2 approach lanes. Change pedestrian crossing to 3 second advance crossing time across Mass. Ave. concurrent with cars turning right. Corey asked if the audible signals could still be accommodated. Jeff will check. Discussed prohibiting parking during morning peak (7:30 to 8:30 am) on Mill Street near the signal. Corey noted that it was the only parking for the auto shops. Jeff suggested that we get this approved and test it and then look at parking. There is \$42,000 remaining in the escrow account funded by CVS. Should be enough or close to it. Recommendations maintain capacity of the intersection while improving safety. Voted unanimously to approve recommendation to ARB and Selectmen. Jeff will write up recommendation.
- School Issues. Jeff and Scott heard from Thompson School architect about placing a flashing school zone sign. Will meet at site. Safe Routes Coordinator at Stratton will do a sidewalk inventory.

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Packet for March: Agenda, 3/12/13; Minutes of 2/13/13; Working Group List, 3/7/13; BoS/ARB Request Status, 3/7/13, Individual Action List from 2/13/13; Status of TAC Approved Actions, 3/7/13; Letter to Thomas Broderick, Chief Engineer, MassDOT, re. Reconstruction of Massachusetts Avenue from Pond Lane to the Cambridge City Line, Project 604687, dated March 1, 2013; Memo to TAC from Forest St./Brand St. Intersection Working Group, Re. Forest Street crossing recommendation; dated Feb. 26, 2013; Article 16 Proposal Revised, Adam Auster; Email from Matthew Guyton to Jeffrey Maxtutis, Re. reporting dangerous intersection, Rt. 2 West Service Road and Pleasant St.; Memo to Board of Selectmen and Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, from TAC, Re. Medford Street bus stops and parking, dated March 8, 2013; Memo from Marie Krepelka to Jeff Maxtutis and Howard Muese Re. Parking on Medford Street, dated February 12, 2013, with attachments.
- Brattle Street Sign Layout Sketch
- Memo to TAC From WAC, dated 3/13/13, Re. TAC Update Items
- Draft Context Sensitive Bike Facility Design Guide Matrix, Arlington BAC/TAC Roadway Restriping Working Group—January, 2013.

